

Wilmington, Delaware
March 6, 2014

#3909

Sponsors:

**Council
Members
Walsh
Dorsey Walker
Wright
M. Brown**

Co-Sponsors:

**Council
Members
Shabazz
Williams
Cabrera**

WHEREAS, the Delaware General Assembly has proposed legislation known as the "Delaware Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation Act"; and

WHEREAS, the principal goal of this Act is to align our State's criminal justice system with its original statement of purpose as stated in the Delaware Code: "To provide for the treatment, rehabilitation and restoration of offenders as useful, law-abiding citizens within the community"; and

WHEREAS, the Act will eliminate costly, ineffective, counterproductive mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for non-violent offenders and will return sentencing discretion to our State's highly competent Judges; and

WHEREAS, City Council for the City of Wilmington asks that special consideration be given to the non-violent offenders that are incarcerated and suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, according to a *Psychology Today* article published on February 5, 2014, "14.5% of males and 31% of females in our jails suffer from serious mental illness. America's jails have become our largest psychiatric facilities"; and

WHEREAS, "now, with the failure of the deinstitutionalization movement when people's illnesses cause them to self-medicate, commit misdemeanors or minor felonies directly related to the symptoms of their untreated mental illnesses, they're dumped in jail," as stated by Rachel Pruchno, Ph.D (*Psychology Today*); and

WHEREAS, it is the expectation of City Council that the Act will give sentencing discretion to our Judges to allow court-ordered individualized programs to be completed in a facility equipped to address the offender's needs, thereby enabling them to become productive, law-abiding citizens within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council supports the "Delaware Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation Act" and encourages the General Assembly to vote to approve this Act.

Passed by City Council,
March 6, 2014

Attest:

Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 28th
day of February, 2014.

Michael P. Migliore
City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution supports the "Delaware Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation Act" and encourages the General Assembly to vote to approve the Act.